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Mail Stop: Non-Fee Amendment
Commissioner for Patents
PO Box 1450
Alexandria VA 22313-1450

May 16, 2003

Re: 10/052,115
By: Paul Carlson & Ed Nehus
Filed: 1/17/2002

Art Unit 1614
Examiner Ostrup, Chilton
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#4/A
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6/5/03

Sir:

This is in response to the Official Action mailed February 21, 2003.

Amendments

Please delete the statement regarding the provisional application on page 1 and substitute the following: "This application claims benefit of Provisional US Application No. 60/264,611 filed January 27, 2001." A substitute page 1 reflecting the change is appended hereto.

A new inventors' declaration is also enclosed herewith, referring to 35USC119(e), identifying the present application by Serial Number and filing date, and including the suggestions made by Examiner at the bottom of page 3 of the Official Action. However, it is signed only by inventors Carlson and Nehus. Applicants' attorney and the other inventors are having difficulty obtaining inventor Bell's signature as he no longer resides in the area. A declaration signed by inventor Bell in substantially the same form as that enclosed herein will be forwarded as soon as possible.

Please change the term "Xanthan" to "xanthan" as appropriate. New sheets are appended hereto to reflect changes in lines 17, 19 and 21 of page 2; 14, 18, and 20 of page 3; line 17 of page 4; line 4 of page 6; lines 2 and 19 of page 10 (claims 1, 5, and 7); and lines 9, 11, and 15 of page 11 (claims 13, 14, and 15)..